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January 26, 2026

Hon. Nathan Calouro, Chair
Bristol Town Council
Town Hall
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Chair Calouro and Council:

Along with so many other informed citizens, we are aware the Council will consider the ALPR reader for Bristol. As a former (Texas) judge with both criminal and civil jurisdiction, I am in favor of technological advances that assist law enforcement efforts to ensure public safety. In ordinary times we would not oppose selective placement of a Flock camera in our town to read license plates.

However, these are not ordinary times. The current federal administration has demonstrated a consistent willingness to allow armed and masked ICE agents to violate state and federal law in the overbroad, misguided, and often lethal, pursuit of human beings engaged in lawful activities. Events in cities across America, most recently and starkly in Minneapolis, bring into sharp focus our federal government's willingness to abuse our constitutional rights. A Flock camera can read a bumper sticker as well as a license plate. If the feds detain you because of the color of your skin, they could do it for the content of your bumper sticker. It would not surprise us if that kind of thing took place in the Texas we left. By contrast, we welcome and trust the local and state law enforcement in our new home. But as long as the feds are so readily willing to disregard the law, we cannot allow them any leeway.

Thank you for your service to our community,


Mike Schless


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